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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/685,568	10/16/2003	Takumi Suzawa	461-151	7172
23117	7590	04/04/2005		EXAMINER
NIXON & VANDERHYE, PC				NGUYEN, CAM N
1100 N GLEBE ROAD				
8TH FLOOR			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
ARLINGTON, VA 22201-4714				1754

DATE MAILED: 04/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/685,568	SUZAWA ET AL.
	Examiner Cam N Nguyen	Art Unit 1754

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 October 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on as originally filed is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/16/03.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: ____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102(b)

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-7, 12, & 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mussmann et al., "hereinafter Mussmann", (US Pat. 6,294,140 B1).

Mussmann discloses a catalyst for treating exhaust gas from an internal combustion engine, comprising: a carrier body; an inner layer, deposited on said carrier body, said inner layer comprising platinum deposited on a first support material and on a first oxygen storage component; and an outer layer, deposited on said inner layer, said outer layer comprising platinum and rhodium deposited on a second support material and on second oxygen storage component (see col. 18, claim 1). The first and second support materials are the same or different, and comprise at least one compound selected from a group including zirconia-rich zirconia/ceria mixed oxide (see col. 18, claim 2). The first and second storage components comprise ceria-rich ceria/zirconia mixed oxide compounds (see col. 18, claim 5).

Mussmann discloses the claimed ceramic catalyst, thus anticipates the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mussmann et al., "hereinafter Mussmann", (US Pat. 6,294,140 B1).

Mussmann discloses a catalyst as described above, except for the three layers of promoter components, wherein the innermost layer of the layers comprises a ceria.

However, it would have been *prima facie obvious* to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the catalyst of Mussmann by adding a ceria layer as an innermost layer on the substrate in order to achieve a more promoted catalyst because ceria is known in the art a useful catalyst promoter.

5. Claims 9-11 & 13-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mussmann et al., "hereinafter Mussmann", (US Pat. 6,294,140 B1), as applied to claims 1-7, 12, & 19 above, and further in view of Koike et al., (European Patent 1 043 067 A2), "hereinafter EP '067".

Mussmann discloses a catalyst as described above, except for the claimed ceramic support material and its properties.

However, the EP '067 fairly teaches a ceramic support material and having the

same properties as being claimed (see EP '067 pages 29-36 & abstract). Thus, it would have been *prima facie obvious* to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have utilized such known ceramic support material as taught by the EP '067 to make the catalyst of Mussmann because it is known as useful catalyst support material.

Citations

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See PTO-892 Form attached. All references are cited for related art.

Conclusion

7. Claims 1-19 are originally pending in the application. Claims 1-19 are rejected. No claims are allowed.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Primary Examiner Cam N Nguyen, whose telephone number is 571-272-1357. The examiner can normally be reached on M, W, R, & F, 8:45 AM - 5:15 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stanley Silverman, can be reached on 571-272-1358. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Nguyen/cnn CNN
March 19, 2005

Cam Nguyen
CAM N. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
AV-1754